

CLAIMS:

1. A cuff for medical use wherein the cuff is made of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal.
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2. The cuff as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cuff is formed to provide one of the following: a cuff for a heart valve; a cuff for a line; a barrier cuff for a peritoneal dialysis catheter; an annuloplasty band; an annuloplasty ring.
- 10 3. A cuff for a mechanical heart valve, wherein the cuff is made of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable wire and provides an inner annular rim dimensioned to fit around the perimeter of the heart valve and formed integrally with an outer annulus of larger diameter than said inner annular rim.
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4. The cuff as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the flexible openwork structure is selected from one of the following: knitted wire, woven wire, wire fabricated into a chainmail structure, wire formed into a random "steel wool" structure, perforated metal plate.
- 20 5. The cuff as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the metal is selected from: titanium; a medically approved titanium alloy.